

San Diego HIV/AIDS:

UPDATE AND NAMES REPORTING

By Terry Cunningham

As the nation begins to prepare for National HIV Testing Day on June 27, the healthcare community is reminded that, while treatment options have tremendously improved in the past decade, HIV/AIDS remains a significant public

AIDS or HIV disease in the State of California over the past 25 years of this epidemic.

The healthcare provider is no longer responsible for creating the non-name code for newly diagnosed HIV cases. Instead, these cases will be reported by name. Only complete cases reported to Community Epidemiology by name will be count-

and laboratory directors or their designees are now required to report all patients by name with a test result indicative of HIV to Community Epidemiology. When a laboratory has a test result indicative of HIV infection, they report a limited amount of information to Community Epidemiology and send the results to the provider.

The provider then forwards a completed case report form to Community Epidemiology. Community Epidemiology staff are available to assist providers in reporting HIV and AIDS cases — please call 619/515.6675.

Regulations require providers to use the California Department of Health Services Adult or Pediatric HIV/AIDS Confidential Case Report form. The forms include name, gender, date of birth, as well as other demographic information, patient history, and treatment information. HIV case reports for San Diego County residents should be sent to the County of San Diego, HHSA, Community Epidemiology Unit, by mail (1700 Pacific Highway, P511C-A, San Diego, CA 92101) or fax (619/515.6765). Community Epidemiology staff are available to provide an orientation for

National HIV Testing Day Is June 27

health threat. The number of AIDS cases in the United States has increased steadily since 2000. At the end of 2004, there were an estimated 415,193 persons living with AIDS. This does not include the number of those living with HIV disease. HIV is not reportable in all areas of the country. Among those areas that do report, there were 229,411 individuals living with HIV disease at the end of 2004. National trends are showing that HIV/AIDS numbers are growing in the age groups: 15–19, 20–24, 50–54, 55–59, 60–64 and 65 years and older (1). In California the numbers for the same reporting period are: 50,229 living with AIDS, and 27,926 living with HIV. Since HIV reporting began in July 2002, in San Diego on a coded, non-names basis, through April of 2006, there are 4,972 individuals with HIV and, currently, 5,956 individuals living with AIDS. Statistics for San Diego County have been closely following the national trends.

As of April 17, 2006, the State of California changed HIV reporting from a non-name coded system to a name-based system (2). AIDS has always been reportable by name; now HIV is reportable by name. This information stays at the local health department level. Patient identifier information is not transmitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Patients can be confident in this system since there has never been a breach of confidential information regarding

ed for federal funding of HIV prevention and care and treatment programs. Healthcare providers must report a case when a patient has a test result indicative of HIV infection. This includes: a) confirmed positive HIV antibody test; b) viral load test for a confirmed HIV positive individual (including undetectable viral load results); c) P24 antigen test; or d) viral isolation test. Providers must report a patient by name upon receipt of a test result (the specimen much have been collected on or after April 17, 2006) indicative of HIV infection and again when the individual meets the AIDS case definition. Always report a case even if it is assumed that another provider may have reported the patient. This helps ensure more complete case capture, which is critical for local prevention and treatment funding. Healthcare providers

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About the Author: Terry Cunningham has been the chief of the HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch of Public Health Services for over seven years. He has worked in AIDS in San Diego for the past 24 years.

HIV reporting and to answer your questions. To schedule an onsite orientation, please call 619/515.6675.

It will take a minimum of two years for accurate numbers of those infected with HIV to be counted in the system. Therefore, the public health department needs the help of the community healthcare providers treating individuals at high-risk for HIV/AIDS and those who are already diagnosed with HIV/AIDS to get accurate numbers in order to receive appropriate funding. Only tests performed after April 17, 2006, can be counted under this new regulation. It is important for providers to advise high-risk individuals to obtain an HIV test. This can be done at either a facility recommended by the provider or at a county HIV testing center. Also, it is important for providers who administer primary medical care to those with HIV/AIDS to order a viral load test. Clients will not be counted unless testing positive after April 17, 2006, or having a viral load test done after that date. National HIV Testing Day (June 27) would be a good time for all healthcare providers to remind their patients at high risk to have an HIV test.

County HIV counseling and testing is available at the Health Services Complex at 3851 Rosecrans Street, Central Region Public Health Center, San Diego Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Community Center Health Services 619/260.6380, and Mobile Testing Unit at various locations throughout San Diego County (please call 619/296.2120 for locations and times).

Another County of San Diego service for which providers should be aware to mention to patients is the Partner Notification Program. San Diego is a part of the collaborative with the State of California Disclosure Assistance and Partner Services (CDAPS). If a patient would like to have counseling on how to tell a partner that she/he has tested positive for HIV, the County can help. Please call 619/296.2120 and ask for a CDAPS referral. **SDP**

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2004 Vol. 16. Atlanta: U. S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2005; pages 6-8.
2. California State Senate Bill 699; April 17, 2006.

San Diego County Health Statistics: HIV/AIDS

■ In San Diego County, the mode of transmission for AIDS cases differs from the Nation: 47% of cumulative adult and adolescent AIDS cases in the United States are due to male-to-male sexual contact, while 74% of AIDS cases in San Diego are in that category (cumulative through 2004 for the United States; cumulative through 2005 for San Diego) (1).

■ The rate of HIV infection among men testing only at the County of San Diego Anonymous HIV Counseling and Testing Services sites increased from 1.6% in 2000 to 3.0% in 2005 (2).

June 27, 2006, is National HIV Testing Day. For more information about National HIV Testing Day, please visit NAPWA.org.

To request additional health statistics describing health behaviors, diseases and injuries for specific populations, health trends and comparisons to national targets, please call the County's Community Health Statistics Unit at 619/285.6479. To access the latest data and data links, including the 2004 Core Public Health Indicator document and Community Regional Profiles, go to SDHealthStatistics.com.

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2004. Vol. 16. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2005: p 12. County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Community Epidemiology.
2. County of San Diego HIV Counseling and Testing Data. State of California, Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS.

② ① ① San Diego

With all the ways people can connect these days — home phones, cell phones, online — now there's a single phone number to help people connect with community resources quickly and easily: 2-1-1. This comprehensive service offers free, around-the-clock access to health, community and disaster services in San Diego County.

When dialing 2-1-1, callers are linked to a highly trained phone specialist who can answer questions about a variety of services and agencies: where to find child care, employment assistance, food and shelter, protective services and legal aid, counseling, parenting classes, substance abuse, and employment or volunteer opportunities, for example. Information is confidential and offered in more than 150 languages with the help of a language service. Callers can also receive assistance accessing

healthcare, non-urgent medical support for seniors and the disabled.

In times of disaster, San Diego's 2-1-1 will be mobilized within the County's emergency operations system as a central communications link, providing information about evacuation routes, shelters, road closures, and the status of the disaster.

San Diego County residents with T-Mobile USA, Cingular, and Sprint Nextel wireless services can now dial 2-1-1 from their cell phones. In the meantime, cell phone users who need to access information but do not have these wireless services can dial (858) 300-1211. Additionally, 2-1-1 dialing may not yet be available from workplaces that have central switchboards. For questions about reprogramming your office phone system to accept 2-1-1 calls, please visit the 2-1-1 website at www.211sandiego.org. **SDP**

3 Ways to Connect

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① Phone:

Dial 2-1-1. Bilingual information and referral specialists provide personalized information about community resources.

② Print:

2-1-1 San Diego's publications include specialized directories, resource brochures, and the comprehensive guide to health and human services, *Directions*.

③ Online:

2-1-1 San Diego's online database of nearly 3,000 services enables anyone with internet access to find community resources and search by program or location at www.211sandiego.org or www.informsandiego.org.